

REMARKS

This Response is submitted in reply to the Office Action mailed on August 21, 2007. Claims 1 and 25 have been amended. No new matter is added by these amendments.

A Petition for a one-month extension of time is submitted herewith. Please charge deposit account number 02-1818 to cover the cost of the extension of time and for any other fees which are due in connection with this Response.

The Office Action rejected Claims 1, 6, 11 to 13, 15, 20, 23 to 25, 30, 33 to 35, 37, 42, 45, and 46 under U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,705,944 to Luciano ("Luciano"). Applicant respectfully disagrees with these rejections. Nevertheless, certain of the claims have been amended for clarification purposes.

Luciano discloses a gaming device which includes a spinning reel game mounted below a spinning wheel game (Abstract). The wheel game of Luciano includes a plurality of concentric rings. Each ring including a plurality of sections or symbols (Fig. 2). When the wheel game is activated, the rings rotate and stop rotating in sequence (i.e., one at a time). For example, the outer ring spins first, the middle ring spins when the outer ring stops spinning, and the inner ring spins last (col. 5, lines 44 to 49). A payline associated with the wheel indicates one of the symbols from each of the rings when the rings have stopped spinning.

Luciano does not anticipate a gaming device which includes an award distributor including a plurality of sections situated in a predetermined arrangement on the award distributor, the predetermined arrangement including each of the sections being in a set position relative to each other section of the award distributor.

In Luciano, each ring of the wheel spins separately from each of the other rings. Therefore, any of the sections on one ring can be indicated with any of the sections from another ring. Since the sections are free to move in relation to each other in this manner, Luciano does not disclose that each section on the wheel is in a set position relative to each other section on the award wheel.

On the other hand, in the gaming device of amended independent Claim 1 the award distributor includes a plurality of sections situated in a predetermined arrangement on the award distributor, the predetermined arrangement including each of the sections being in a set position relative to each other section of the award distributor.

For at least the reasons discussed above, amended independent Claim 1 and Claims 6, 11 to 13, 15, 20, 23, and 24 which depend therefrom are each patentably distinguished over Luciano and in condition for allowance.

Amended independent Claim 25 includes certain similar elements to amended independent Claim 1. For reasons similar to those discussed above with respect to amended independent Claim 1, amended independent Claim 25 and Claims 30, 33 to 35, 37, 42, 45, and 46 which depend therefrom are each patentably distinguished over Luciano and in condition for allowance.

The Office Action rejected Claims 2 to 5, 7, 8, 14, 16 to 19, 21, 22, 26 to 29, 31, 32, 36, 38 to 41, 43, 44, 47, and 48 under U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Luciano.

Applicant respectfully submits that the patentability of amended independent Claims 1 and 25 renders the rejections of Claims 2 to 5, 7, 8, 14, 16 to 19, 21, 22, 26 to 29, 31, 32, 36, 38 to 41, 43, 44, 47, and 48 moot.

An earnest endeavor has been made to place this application in condition for formal allowance and in the absence of more pertinent art such action is courteously solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this Response, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
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